

Coins

Monticello turns up on 2 sides of a fake nickel

By Roger Boye

HERE ARE some questions from readers, and [hopefully] some helpful answers:

Q—Recently, I received a Jefferson nickel in change. The Monticello appears on both sides of the coin; Jefferson and the date do not appear at all. I would appreciate your comment—M. V. Waukegan.

A—Your coin is a fake. It is impossible for the mint to produce a two-headed or two-tailed coin.

These fakes are usually made by slicing two coins and fitting the parts together. Sometimes

the work is done so well that sophisticated equipment is needed to detect the slice mark.

Q—Here it is 1976 and I have yet to see any 1975 Jefferson nickels in circulation around the Chicago area. I know they were minted, but what happened to them?—D. M., Downers Grove.

A—Most collectors have reported seeing 1975-dated nickels in circulation. It is a coincidence that you have yet to find one. Often, it takes several months for coins with a new date to circulate widely.

There is nothing at all “rare” about 1975-dated nickels. However, the mint did make fewer

nickels in 1975 than it did in 1974 or 1973 [583.6 million last year compared with 879.1 million in 1974 and 645.8 million in 1973]. Therefore, 1975-dated nickels will not be seen as often in circulation as 1974- or 1973-dated nickels.

Q—Are Canadian quarters, being made today, silver or copper?—N. S., St. Charles.

A—Neither; they are made of nickel. Canadian quarters dated 1968 and earlier contain some silver.

If you have questions about coins and collecting, send them to me, in care of Room 414, Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan Av., Chicago Ill. 60611. But, please, do not send coins.